



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 7040.0020.01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Renato CARETTA et al.)
)
Application Serial No.: 09/873,330) Group Art Unit: 1733
)
Filed: June 5, 2001) Examiner: Knable, G.
)
For: METHOD OF MAKING TIRES)
FOR VEHICLE WHEELS)

8/10
2/6/03

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") is being filed after the events recited in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, an *ex parte* Quayle Action, or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this IDS is accompanied by a fee of \$180.00 as specified by Section 1.17(p).

Copies of most of the listed documents were previously submitted, considered, and/or cited by the Examiner in a prior application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/198,241, filed November 24, 1998, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided under 35 U.S.C.

§ 120. Copies of the two other listed documents (U.S. Patent No. 6,318,432 and U.S. patent application publication No. 20020011297), discussed below, are attached.

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Applicants would like to point out to the Examiner the following applications that may be related to the present application:

(a) U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/198,242, filed November 24, 1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,318,432); and

(b) U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/970,221, filed October 2, 2001 (U.S. patent application publication No. 20020011297).

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached Form PTO 1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim(s) in the application and Applicants determine that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document(s).

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this IDS, please charge the fee to
our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
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Dated: January 30, 2003

By: _____
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